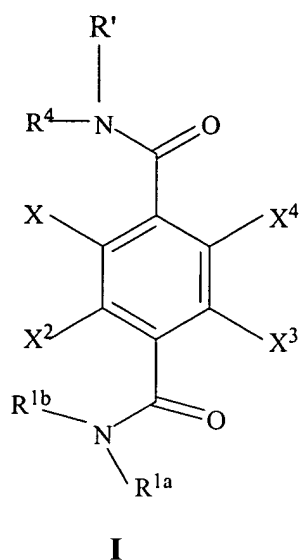


In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A compound or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the formula:

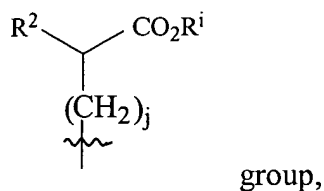


where X is H, halogen (F, Cl, Br, I), R, OR, SR or NR^cR^d ;

X², X³ and X⁴ are each independently selected from H, halogen, OH, R^e or OR^e,

R⁴ is H, an unsubstituted or substituted C₁-C₈ alkyl or alkene, or an unsubstituted or substituted C₁-C₆ alkylene amine;

R' is H, an unsubstituted or substituted C₁-C₈ alkyl or alkene, an unsubstituted or substituted C₁-C₆ alkylene amine, or a



where Rⁱ is H or C₁-C₄ alkyl; j is 0, 1 or 2;

R^2 is independently H, an unsubstituted or substituted hydrocarbon, an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy, unsubstituted or substituted ester, an unsubstituted or substituted alkanol, an unsubstituted or substituted alkanoic acid, an unsubstituted or substituted thioester, an unsubstituted or substituted thioether, an unsubstituted or substituted amine, an unsubstituted or substituted mono- or dialkylamide, an substituted or unsubstituted alkylene amide, an unsubstituted or substituted alkyleneamine; or

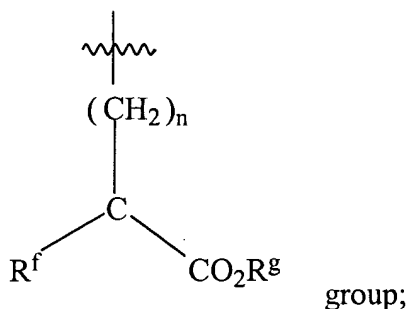
R' together with the nitrogen atom to which R' is attached form an amino acid residue;

R is H, an unsubstituted or substituted C_1 - C_{10} alkyl or acyl group, an unsubstituted or substituted aryl, heteroaryl, alkylene aryl or alkylene heteroaryl group;

R^c and R^d are independently H, C_1 - C_6 alkyl, a C_1 - C_6 alkanol or a C_1 - C_6 acyl group with the proviso that if one of R^c or R^d is an acyl group, the other of R^c or R^d cannot also be an acyl group;

R^e is an unsubstituted or substituted C_1 - C_6 alkyl or acyl group, or an unsubstituted or substituted aryl or alkylene aryl group;

R^{1a} and R^{1b} are each independently H, unsubstituted or substituted C_1 - C_8 alkyl or alkene, ~~an unsubstituted or substituted aryl or alkylene aryl group,~~ a C_1 - C_6 alkylene amine which is optionally substituted with one or two C_1 - C_4 alkyl groups, a



Where R^g is H or C_1 - C_6 alkyl;

n is 0, 1 or 2; and

R^f is H, an unsubstituted or substituted hydrocarbon, an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy, an unsubstituted or substituted ester, an unsubstituted or substituted alkanol, an unsubstituted or substituted alkanoic acid, an unsubstituted or substituted thioester, an unsubstituted or substituted

thioether, an unsubstituted or substituted amine, an unsubstituted or substituted mono- or dialkylamide, an substituted or unsubstituted alkylene amide, an unsubstituted or unsubstituted alkyleneamine or an alkyleneguanidine group; or

R^{1a} and R^{1b}, together with the nitrogen atom to which R^{1a} and R^{1b} are attached, form an amino acid residue.

2. (Original) The compound according to claim 1 wherein R⁴ is H and R' together with the nitrogen to which R' is attached form an α - amino acid residue.

3. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1 wherein R⁴ is H and R' together with the nitrogen to which R' is attached form an amino acid residue obtained from alanine, arginine, asparagine, aspartic acid, cysteine, glutamine, glutamic acid, glycine, histidine, isoleucine, leucine, lysine, methionine, phenylalanine, praline, serine, threonine, tryptophan, tyrosine or valine.

4. (Original) The compound according to claim 1 wherein R² is an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl or aryl group, an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy or ester group, an unsubstituted or substituted alkanol or alkanoic acid, an unsubstituted or substituted C₁-C₆ thioether, an unsubstituted or substituted amine, an unsubstituted or substituted alkylamide or alkylene amide or an alkyleneguanidine group.

5. Canceled.

6. Canceled.

7. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 1 wherein R⁴ ~~and or~~ X form a ~~is hydrogen bond~~.

8. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1 wherein X is H, OR, SR or

NR^cR^d.

9-12. Canceled.

13. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1 wherein X², X³ and X⁴ are each independently H.

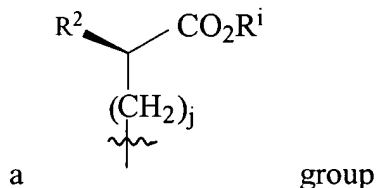
14. Canceled.

15. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 1 wherein R^{1a} and R^{1b} are each independently H, H or C₁-C₄ alkyl ~~or an unsubstituted or substituted aryl group~~.

16. Canceled.

17. Canceled.

18. (Previously presented) The compound according to Claim 1 where R' is



wherein j is 0; Rⁱ is H or C₁-C₃ alkyl; and

R² is an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl or aryl group, an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy or ester group, an unsubstituted or substituted alkanol or alkanoic acid, an unsubstituted or substituted C₁-C₆ thioether, an unsubstituted or substituted amine, an unsubstituted or substituted alkylamide or alkylene amide or an alkylenguanidine group.

19. Canceled.

20. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1 wherein n is 0.

21. Canceled.

22. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1 wherein R^4 is H and X is a hydrogen bond acceptor group.

22. Canceled.

23-33. Canceled.

The following claims are new:

34. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

35. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 2 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

36. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 3 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

37. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 4 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

38. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 7 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

39. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 8 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

40. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 13 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

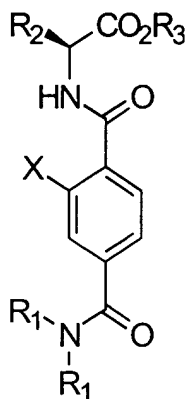
41. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 15 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

42. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 18 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

43. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 20 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

44. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 22 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

45. (New) A compound according to claim 1 having the chemical structure:



Where each R_1 is i-propyl, X is O-i-propyl, R_2 is iso-butyl and R_3 is methyl.

46. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 45 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.